

What is claimed is:

1. A document search method having a function to change over between plural document databases, and a function to search a set of documents having a high
- 5 relevance to a search input from a selected document database in the order of higher relevance, this input being a set of keywords, fragments of a document or any desired set of documents, wherein the search results from said document database can be used as input for
10 searching another database.

2. A document search method as defined in Claim 1, wherein an interface is provided in which a set of documents from the search result of one document
15 database can be selected or deselected, and a set of documents selected from the search result can be used as input to perform a search on another database.

3. A document search method as defined in Claim 1,
20 wherein a summary containing only topic words in the search input is used to perform a search.

4. A document search method as defined in Claim 1, wherein servers comprising document databases and
25 programs to manipulate said databases are dispersed over a network, a client transmits a set of documents in a search input to a server where a selected document database is stored, receives a summary comprising only

topic words related to the set of documents which is sent, sends a search input corresponding to said summary reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary to a server where another document database is stored, and receives a search result.

5. A document search method as defined in Claim 4, wherein said server produces a summary from topic words relevant to a set of documents sent by the client and transmits it to the client, and searches and transmits a set of documents having a high relevance to any summary sent by the client, to the client.

6. A document search method as defined in Claim 4, wherein said client has an interface for specifying a set of documents for search input and document databases to be searched, the set of documents in the search input is sent to a server specified by the user, a summary of the set of documents is received from this server, the summary received is sent to a server comprising another document database, and search results are received from the latter server and displayed.

7. A service for searching documents wherein servers comprising document databases and programs to manipulate said databases are dispersed over a network and a client connected to said servers performs a

document search, said service providing a function for the client to transmit a set of documents in a search input to one of said servers where a selected document database is stored, receive a summary comprising only topic words related to the set of documents which is sent, send a search input corresponding to said summary reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary to a server where another document database is stored, and receive a search result, wherein said server produces a summary of topic words relevant to the set of documents sent by the client and transmits it to the client, and searches and transmits a set of documents having a high relevance to any desired summary sent by the client, to the client.

8. A document search method as defined in Claim 2, wherein a summary containing only topic words in the search input is used to perform a search.

9. A document search method as defined in Claim 2, wherein servers comprising document databases and programs to manipulate said databases are dispersed over a network, a client transmits a set of documents in a search input to a server where a selected document database is stored, receives a summary comprising only topic words related to the set of documents which is sent, sends a search input corresponding to said summary reflecting a user's evaluation of the summary

~~then
result~~

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